

'Plays very important role'

Center for Afghanistan Studies aids rebuilding efforts



— Courtesy the Center for Afghanistan Studies

The Afghan war . . .

An unidentified Afghan rebel displays an anti-tank device used to battle Soviet-backed troops. For more on Afghanistan, see a special four-page section beginning on page 5.

UNO's Center for Afghanistan Studies is "a special and unique kind of project, no other program like it exists," said Jerry Litson, spokesman for the United States Agency for International Development (AID).

AID is an agency of the State Department that provides humanitarian, disaster and economic relief to more than 70 countries all over the Third World, Litson said.

The Afghan assistance program, of which UNO's Center for Afghanistan Studies is part, is funded by some of the \$45 million dollars AID receives in support.

"UNO's program is a basic and integral component of the overall humanitarian assistance program," Litson said. "All components have to fit together for the program to succeed. UNO plays a very important role."

AID provides medical supplies, educational supplies, training, foodstuffs and commodities to the countries it is providing assistance to.

The agency played a key financial role last month in helping 21 Afghans attend UNO to re-learn lost skills and prepare to play important roles in their country's reconstruction.

The students will attend UNO for one year, said Tom Gouttierre, director of International Studies and Programs. They will also have the opportunity to attend classes at the Med Center and UN-L, Gouttierre said.

"It offers UNO a real unique opportunity to be involved in a management training program in reconstruction that few universities ever have," Gouttierre said.

The Afghans are enrolled in intensive English, engineering, agriculture, medicine and education courses, he said.

The students will be integrated into regular classes after they complete their own workshops and classes.

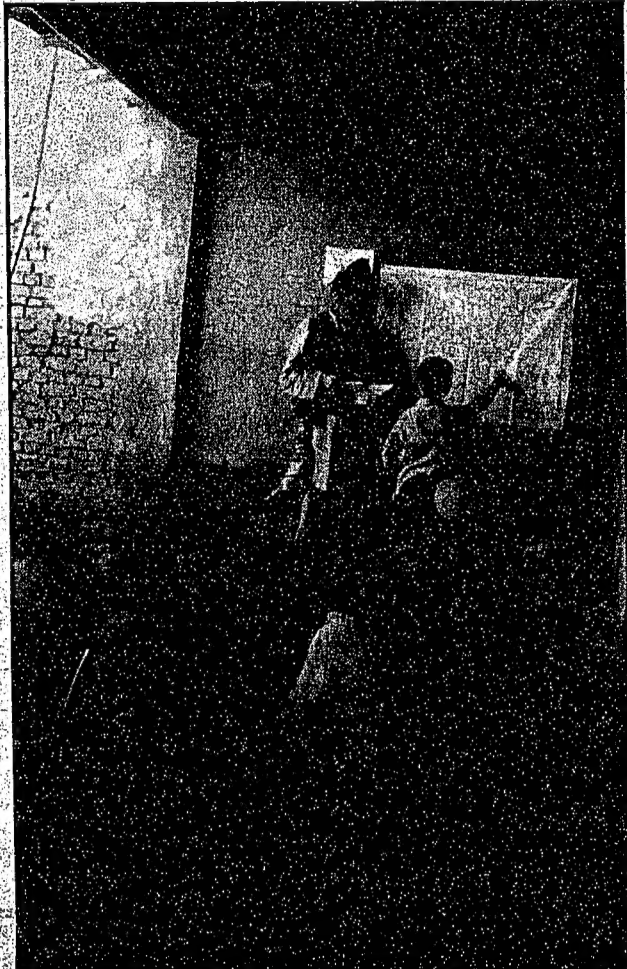
In addition to the courses, the students will also work on internships in areas relating to those in which they were previously trained, he said.

"All will take classes specifically in their areas of previous training so they know where the state of the discipline is these days, what has happened since they've been divorced with it for the past 10 years," Gouttierre said.

The students have adjusted well to living in Omaha, he said.

"Anybody who can fight the Soviets for 10 years under the conditions they have had to can probably take about anything," Gouttierre said. "Omaha must be a piece of cake for them."

The non-degree certificate program through the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) is designed to train them in administration for the rebuilding of their country.



— Courtesy the Center for Afghanistan Studies

ACT revenge possible

By STEVE CHASE
Senior Reporter

Students hoping to redeem themselves for ACT test scores achieved in high school now have an opportunity for revenge. But the offer is only good until April 9.

Unlike the conditions most people originally took the American College Testing exam (ACT) under, the repeat attempt at the college placement exam is strictly for research purposes.

It also means a profit for some people. Every student involved in actual testing will be paid.

According to Otto-Bauer, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, the university offer allows students to repeat the national placement tests as part of the Student Educational Outcome Program.

The program, established by the UNO research department two years ago at the request of NU Regent Kermit Hansen, is aimed at monitoring and improving learning conditions.

Its main function is to measure how much students have learned since leaving high school. The program also assists the faculty in determining how much students have improved in certain subjects since coming to UNO.

Individual scores are scaled together to look for pattern distinctions. These patterns indicate how students in different colleges retain or improve on skills measured by the tests.

Bauer said past tests indicate the majority of students who scored well on the first testing performed stronger when they repeated the ACT.

When students sign up to retake the ACTs, they are not given the whole test. The program only requires the student to take the section (or sections) relating to his major. If the person's studies relate to all sections of the examination, the student retakes the ACT in its entirety.

The program seeks students who have passed 45 to 60 credit hours. Those eligible can take the ACTs after filling out a four-page survey which evaluates the courses they have taken.

Marion Fortin-Wavra, coordinator of the Testing Center, said test times range from 35 minutes for short sections to three hours for the whole battery.

Pay also varies on how much time is spent in testing. A student can receive up to \$25 for participating in the programs. Funds for the program are provided by the Kelly II Fund, part of a grant given to the NU Foundation for research purposes.

A long way from Omaha . . .

Through a grant from the Agency for International Development (AID), UNO provides instructional materials and other educational assistance to students in Afghanistan and nearby Pakistan.

Coin thief pops
\$600 from truckBy DAVID MANNING
Staff Reporter

Approximately \$600 was taken from a Pepsi-Cola distributor's truck while parked on campus March 19.

According to Charles Swank, manager of Campus Security, the money was taken from an unlocked truck parked between the Library and the Engineering Building while the driver was inside the Engineering Building stocking Pepsi machines.

Swank said the driver of the truck estimated that between \$500 and \$700 in coins were in the truck at the time of the theft, which occurred sometime before noon.

The coins were collected from other machines on campus. Pepsi-Cola is the soft drink contractor for UNO. Since the theft occurred on campus, Campus Security will be involved with the case.

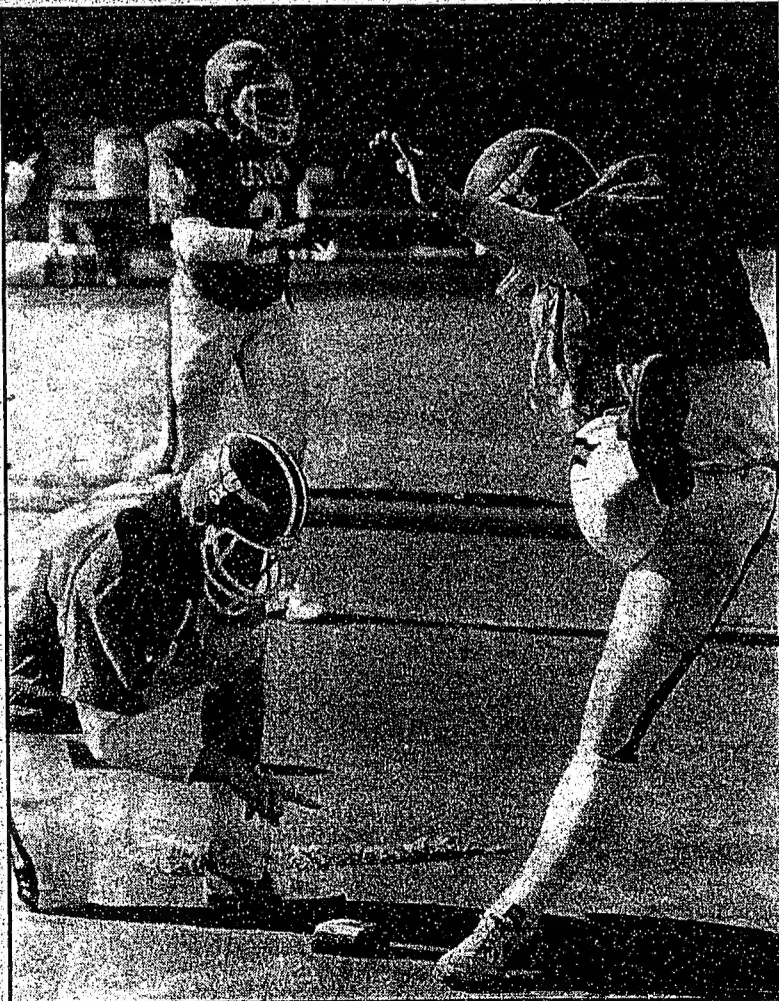
"We will do everything within our limits to try and determine who may have taken the funds," Swank said.

Roy Kennedy, a spokesman for the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, said this isn't the first time such a theft at UNO has occurred.

"It's been several years since it has happened," Kennedy said.

According to Kennedy, drivers should store money in a safe within the truck. "He (the driver) is responsible for keeping the money locked up," he said.

He said the doors of the truck also should be locked in the driver's absence. Kennedy said Pepsi-Cola would work with Omaha Police to locate the thief.



— Eric Lindwall

Kicking off spring practice

Holder Greg Childs and Kicker John Bonacci kickoff spring football practice. Head Coach Sandy Buda hopes to build on a strong running game. For more on the Maverick football team, see page 11.

Comment

Nebraska City road trip

Just another case of Post Spring Break Syndrome

Here we all are . . . back again. We seem to have a cosmic case of 'dem old cosmic post spring break blues. We (my friend and fellow reporter Dave Manning and I) are going to tackle just what and how a student gets traumatized. Just like McNeill and Lehrer, I know I've got a case of PSBS — Post Spring Break Syndrome.

Me: I'm in a blue way, Dave. Spring break may have been a mistake.

Dave: I think you're right, Tim. As much as I needed the break, it may not have been in my best interests after all. I feel worse.

Me: The only thing I managed to accomplish was reading "War and Peace" for our Russian Lit. class. I proved it. You can read Tolstoy while listening to REM and watching two hours of Perry Mason on cable. I'm a vidiot at heart.

I'm not proud of the fact, but Perry Mason is more interesting than the finest novel ever written, no contest. How about you, Dave?

Dave: Della Street definitely has something over Natasha Rostov, Tim. My accomplishments pale by comparison. I don't think my week was as long as yours; I didn't achieve much in that blissful nine-day period.

Me: But why, friend Dave? OK, I admit that road trip to Nebraska City to buy pickles and Little Debbie Swiss Cakes was sort of a wasted day in one sense, but at least the company was pleasant.

Dave: Why, thank you, Tim.

Me: Wrong, wrong, wrong. You weren't the company I was thinking of. The ones with the longish hair and higher voices made the trip for me, buddy!

So it wasn't Ft. Lauderdale. Nebraska City is the home of Arbor Lodge. Mom was proud that I didn't spend my break drooling, drinking and damaging my pale mind and body on some beach.

Dave: Yeah, wouldn't that have been just tragic? The trip at least assured me that rural Nebraska is alive and well. Another tragedy.

Tim Kaldahl

Gateway Columnist

Me: What we have here is Post Spring Break Syndrome. It's sort of like a hangover for your mood.

Dave: I'm lost, and I assume most people reading this are, too. Try and explain this "hangover" thing without confusing me or the audience at home.

Me: Think about it. For a week, 14,000 students did a whole lot of nothing. Just when all of us are getting good at it, we have to go back and start sweating out papers and finals.

I'm not motivated, I'm not interested, I'm not very awake. The only good thing about this mood "hangover" is I don't have

to throw up. Clear now?

Dave: Like an empty bottle, I agree with the "motivated . . . interested . . . awake" bit; my mind has been on autopilot for a few days.

Me: I'm sorry to hear that. I haven't been able to notice a difference. The final cut for me was this silly letter from the university. They want me to pre-register for next fall.

I'm terrified. What should I be doing with this thing? I know what I'd like to do with this, but there are too many administrators and not enough letters to go around.

Dave: It's like a pink slip, Tim, only it's yellow. I'd worry about what your future academic plans are, concentrate on career choices and ignore it and wait until August.

Me: Maybe. Maybe I should join the McDonald's team and flip burgers or help Jesse Jackson or George Bush with their campaigns. It's all the same to me.

Is it me, or do I have a rotten mood, Dave?

Dave: I think you are a rotten mood, Tim.

Ever since my first semester here at UNO, I've looked forward to pre-registration. I can plan how well I'm going to do in all these fascinatingly interesting classes while totally forgetting about the troubles I'm having in my current ones.

Unfortunately, I haven't had time to browse yet. Autopilot does that to you.

Me: Say goodnight, Dave. Thanks for helping on my first tag-team column.

Dave: When do I get paid?

Revolving restaurants leave columnist with stomach turns

One of the things I always make a point of doing when I'm traveling is to read the local letters-to-the-editor in the towns I pass through. It gives you a pretty good idea of what's on people's minds.

So I was in a prosperous Midwestern city — with a population somewhere between medium and large — and I noticed a letter-to-the-editor from a person who apparently had grown up in the city and had moved to a smaller town. The letter writer's name was Pat Narike, who recently had visited the bigger city. This is what Narike had to say:

"With the changing skyline, I have mixed emotions about the downtown area from what I remember over 23 years ago. One thing I have noticed is that not one of the tall buildings downtown has revolving restaurants at the top! When I lived in Los Angeles, I dined at every one they had, and what a treat it was to dine while looking at the lovely views during the dark evening hours. C'mon . . . how about a revolving restaurant on one of the skyscrapers coming up?"

This Narike did not seem to be kidding. I couldn't believe the letter. As I say, reading letters-to-the-editor is a good way to keep up with national trends — but I refuse to believe that there is a groundswell of support around America for rooftop revolving restaurants. Pat Narike must be a freak case.

Have you ever dined in a revolving restaurant? Granted, with world hunger, rampant crime and the possibility of nuclear warfare, the

presence of revolving restaurants is hardly the most pressing issue to face our country. But the introduction of the revolving restaurant is one of the most annoying things — all right, one of the most annoying *minor* things — that has happened to American life during this century.

I'm no expert on architecture, but it seems to me that construction of revolving restaurants peaked between the mid-'60s and the mid-'70s. The first time I ate in one, I did not know in advance that the restaurant revolved. So I thought that I had a mild headache and was undergoing a dizzy spell, until my dinner

Bob Greene

Chicago Tribune

companion pointed out to me how interesting it was that the restaurant revolved.

Like a fool, I tried to finish the meal. I became more and more disoriented. By the time I staggered out of the restaurant, I knew I had to speak to the manager about it.

"No one gets dizzy up here," he insisted. "The restaurant revolves so slowly that you hardly notice it. And during the course of your meal, you get to have a panoramic view of the entire city."

In the years since, I have learned to expect that response from managers of revolving res-

taurants. They can't be expected to say, "Yeah, you're right — eating in our restaurant can be a nauseating experience." So they give you the company line: The restaurant turns at such a gradual speed that it can't possibly affect you.

I'm sure there are, indeed, some people who can sit through a meal in a revolving restaurant and not be bothered. But I know for a fact that there are many of us who don't want to be whirled around while we're eating — no matter what the rate of speed of the whirling. I have this memory of being on the road covering a story. The hotel, as I recall, had a restaurant on the top floor, and I went there for dinner. Midway through my meal, I noticed Carl Stern — the legal affairs correspondent for NBC News, who must have been there to cover the same story — making his way outta the restaurant, his face pale and beads of perspiration on his forehead. I knew what had happened: The revolving restaurant had got to him, too. (In case I'm wrong about this, Mr. Stern is welcome to reply. Maybe he just ate a bad piece of perch.)

The interesting thing is that revolving restaurants are almost invariably constructed in places where there is absolutely no need for a revolving restaurant. I am on the record as being fond of Detroit — but there is a revolving restaurant atop the Renaissance Center, and I have to say that I could get through a meal or a round of drinks just fine without taking in the view of Detroit at night. The highlight is when your table passes a certain point, and you can

say, "Look, there's Windsor!" as you gaze across the water at Canada. Such a thrill is not worth the motion sickness.

And if you think diners hate revolving restaurants, you should talk to the waiters and waitresses. In many revolving restaurants, the core of the structure does not move — just the outer ring where most of the tables are. So the waiter goes to kitchen in the core to pick up the customers' order — only to find that the customers' table is not where it was a few min-

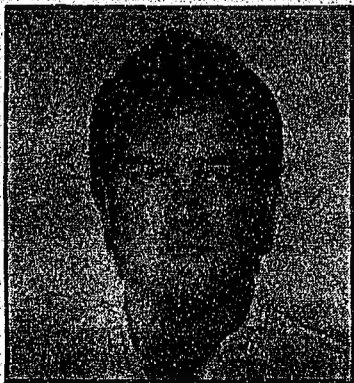
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utes before. Waiters and waitresses who work in revolving restaurants deserve double tips.

How did we get onto this? Oh, Right. Pat Narike, the person who wrote the letter-to-the-editor asking for more revolving restaurants. Nice letter, Pat — but if this is really important to you, why don't you just hold your plate in your hand while standing in your own living room and keep turning around in circles as you eat? You'll get the physical sensation you are seeking, and spare the rest of us some experiences.

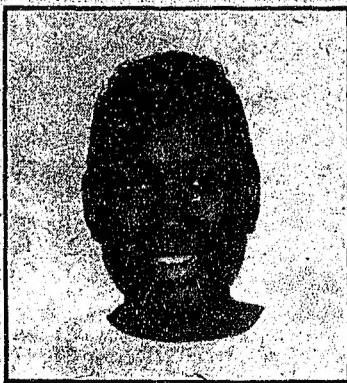
Viewfinder

Opinions solicited by Mark Elliott



Don Powers, senior finance

"No, because compared with the other democratic candidates, Jesse Jackson has the least political experience."



Lynnette Coleman, freshman management

"Yes, because he has more people backing him this year than in 1984 and the polls are showing it."



H. Carl Camp, professor political science

"Unfortunately no, not at this time. It has to do with his race, his political track record and his lack of elective office at any level."



Pamela Wrenn, senior elementary education

"Yes. I feel that people have seen a need for change in this country, and Jesse is a likely leader for this change."



Brian Valenzuela, senior history

"No. The general public isn't ready for a minority as president yet."

Q: Is Jesse Jackson an electable presidential candidate?

Letters

Many thanks

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Gateway (Steve Chase in particular) for a column written about me in a recent edition of the Gateway.

I would also like to thank Dr. Kirwan (political science) and Michael Goodwill (our lawyer coach) for the outstanding job they did preparing us for the mock-trial competition. They put in a lot of extra time and we couldn't have done it without them. Student Government also deserves a round of applause for the financial support we received from them. They helped keep our personal costs down. I would also like to thank anyone who read the column and say to them that the one thing I hope you got

from the article is this: No matter how great the obstacles in your life appear to be, having faith in your God and yourself will enable you to overcome your seemingly insurmountable problems with a grace and ease you never thought you had. I know this is true, because it works for me.

Clark R. Crinklaw,
UNO student

Who told the president?

To the editor:

I've heard Joe Kerrigan has been a little hard to get a hold

of lately, but I thought he still knew what was going on. Even I have heard news on the Student Activities Budget Committee deliberations. Did someone neglect to inform the president/regent? SABC meetings are open to the student body, senators and even president/regents. It is in these hands that the fate of student dollars is decided. The senate vote is a formality that helps insure that the procedure went as it should. I think this year's SABC had a fair turnout and did an excellent job. Why, we've been talking for months, Joe. Haven't you heard?

Joan Schoepfer
UNO student

The Gateway

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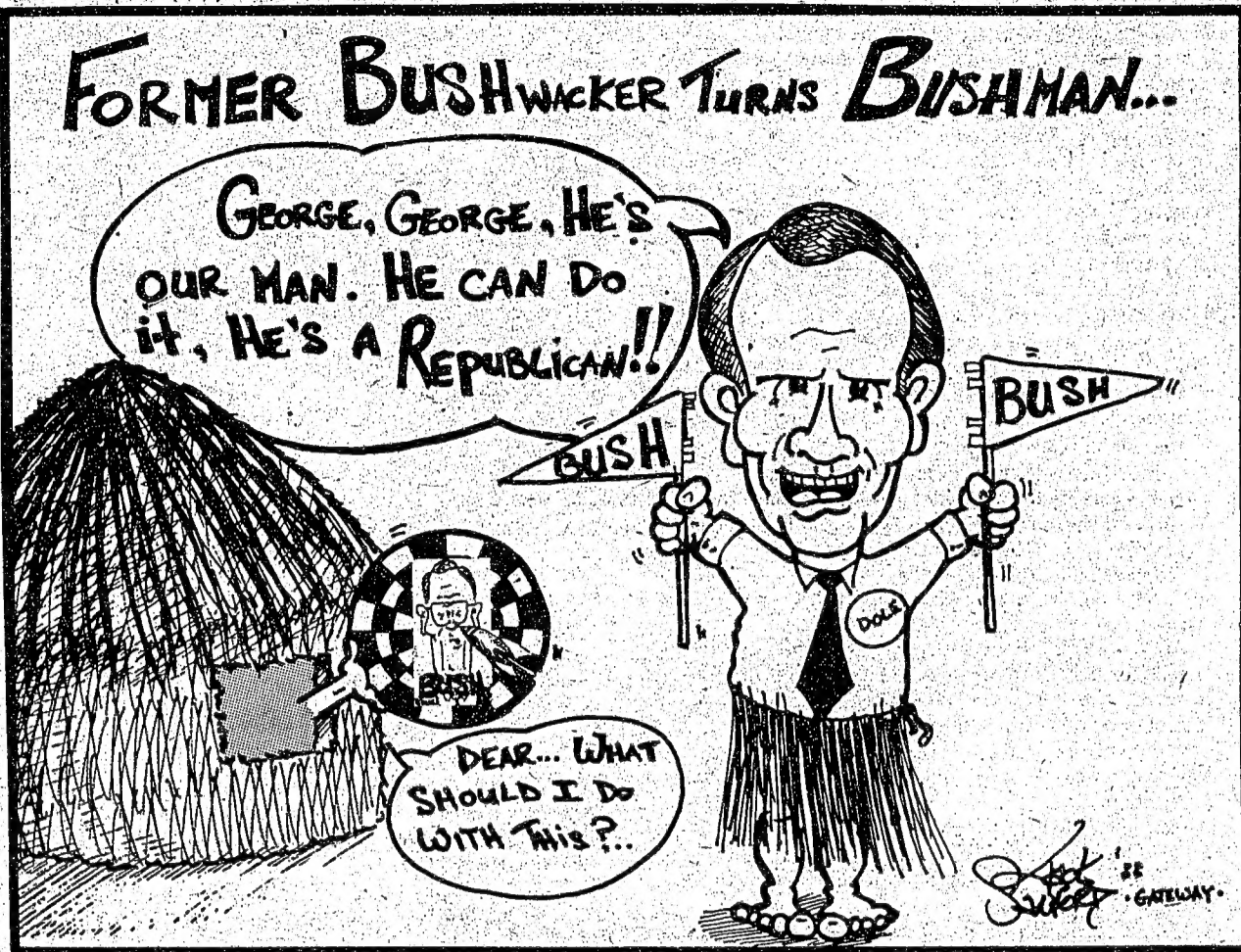
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Weekend Wire

Ode to the beehive

After seeing "Hairspray," the new film by the very demented writer/director John Waters, I couldn't help but think of the vomiting Sid Vicious doll I received from my insane Aunt Natasha when I was a lad.

Both, as my mother would say, were tacky yet cute.

This movie comes as a big change for both the director and the movie-going public. Waters has been a fave of mine for several years, churning out a bevy of sleazy movies on American life such as "Pink Flamingos" (about two couples who compete to see which is the most disgusting) and "Polyester" (filmed in 'odorama,' it is a festival for the sinuses).

But this time, Waters goes for the mainstream audience. His movie *actually* has socially redeeming values as well as beautiful displays of tacky clothing, silly dances and, of course, tons of hairspray.

"Hairspray" is a reflection of Waters' youth set smack dab in the middle of east Baltimore in 1963. This was the time when the deadly contents of aerosol cans acted as aids in creating monster status symbols out of adolescent hair.

It was also the place where all the "hep" teens were infatuated with the budding rock 'n' roll scene as portrayed on east Balti's most popular TV dance program, "The Corny Collin's Show."

The show (which bears a strange resemblance to "American Bandstand") is worshipped by the overweight Tracy Turnblad (Ricki Lake) and her shy friend Penny Pingleton (Leslie Ann Powers). After winning a spot as a regular on the program, Tracy becomes the toast of the town.

But not without opposition. She instantly becomes the target of abuse by reigning teen-queen Amber Von Tussle (diabolically played by the talented Colleen Fitzpatrick). She is constantly out to get Tracy for stealing her dreamboat, Elvis-clone boyfriend Link Larson (Michael St. Gerald; a definite 9.95 on the hunk-o-meter) and for lowering Amber's popularity down to ground zero.

As the plot thickens, Tracy and Penny get fed up when their black friends can't get on the dance show and become involved with the Civil Rights movement. Because of the impact of certain events, they win support from Tracy's parents: Edna (portrayed by Divine, who died a few weeks after this movie was released) and Wilbur (hilariously played by Jerry Stiller).

But the battle isn't over until every bit of racism is overcome. The biggest obstacles are Amber's parents, Thelma (Debbie "Heart of Glass" Harry) and Franklin (Sonny "I Got You Babe" Bono).

And all of this from a man most people wanted to throw into an insane asylum 10 years ago. I was pretty amazed that this guy could create something with as much hip and tacky appeal as "Grease," yet still be as funny and off beat as "Pee Wee's Big Adventure."

Don't be confused. "Hairspray" is not just about sleazy cuteness; it is also about the director's look at different forms



The Turnblad family, left, are the have-nots (Jerry Stiller, Ricki Lake, Divine). The Von Tussles are the haves (Colleen Fitzpatrick, Debbie Harry, Sonny Bono) in John Waters' "Hairspray."

of discrimination ranging from weight to race relations.

But I don't think the credit for this wonderful little comedy should stop with Waters. There are several who really make this film work.

Most of the reviewers I've read have given overdone rave reviews to the older stars. Sure, sex kitten Pia Zadora is in her best role since "Santa Claus vs. the Martians," (she did this dandy back in 1963 when she was 7-years-old) but her only scene in the movie as a hip beatnik chick just lasts about five minutes.

The other big name stars — Debbie Harry, Ric Ocasek and Sonny Bono — spend about the same amount of time on the silver screen.

The real star is newcomer Ricki Lake as Tracy. She's about 250 pounds, and all of it's soul. She made this movie for me not only because of her convincing portrayal as an energetic and worldly teen, but also because of her ability to do all those crazy dances with a fair amount of finesse. If it wasn't

for Lake, this movie wouldn't be believable.

Another is the late actor (actress?) Divine who played a dual role as Tracy's mother and racist television station owner Arvin Hodgepile. Out of the two, I like Arvin the best.

It was Divine's only role that he did out of drag, and I was quite impressed. I wished he would have stayed around a little while longer because his role reminded me of the redneck sleazebags Slim Pickens played in movies like "White Line Fever" and "Blazing Saddles."

Finally, there is choreographer Edward Love whose fine work graces most of this movie. Like Lake, he makes his film debut in "Hairspray." He has also done several animal acts in the past including a few Billy Idol and Tina Turner videos.

Rated PG for some less than tasteful scenes and the presence of Divine (a 370-pound guy in a housedress is not the prettiest sight in the world), it's a fairly safe film for most people. But that's if you can appreciate the cute and tacky.

— STEVE CHASE

'Don't sit there all closed minded — buy these records'

Hi ho! Just your mild mannered, closed minded, everyday music critic here to let you in on a few new releases and as an added bonus — a re-release. Excited? Ready for some original music and not a bunch of sloppy covers? After all, if we wanted to listen to music by the Rainmakers, we'd bloody well buy their records

Review

or see the Rainmakers. Yes? Yes.

So, the Smiths broke up. Maybe there were a few unnecessary comparisons to Lennon and McCartney, but guitarist Johnny Marr and word man Morrissey were more than a part of the English music scene. They were it. But Morrissey and Marr started feuding, and that was that. Marr has been helping out everybody who's in the recording studio lately, and Morrissey put out a solo disk.

Viva Hate would probably garner all four stars as a Smiths LP. But with Marr absent, it earns two — maybe three. Morrissey is still a

depressed little asexual guy singing "When will you die," and "I don't mind if you forget me," and so on. The theme is still here in the lyrics — life sucks, you suck, we all suck. For the music on the album, Morrissey recruited Stephen Street and Vini (Duritti Column) Reilly. Good music, OK. But not the Smiths.

Cuba is the latest release from the Silos, a band from New Jersey that sounds like a mutation between the Velvet Underground and Hank Williams Sr. Like Camper Van Beethoven, the Silos use country music as a starting point and then explode from there. The album opens with "Tennessee Fire." Strange topic for a bunch of New Yorkers, but more than one person I know thought they were from the Volunteer State. The Silos were voted "best new American band" by Rolling Stone and played here Wednesday night. If you didn't have a chance to see them or any of the other bands that the Ranch Bowl has been bringing into town recently, you're missing out on some good music and the best rock scene in Omaha right now.

Funky latino samba music with a jazz blues influence that still rocks out. If I had to cate-

gorize Naked, the newest album by the Talking Heads, that would be it. This LP, despite being all over the place, shows that maybe the T. Heads are ready to step back into the forefront as one of the world's "important" bands. Naked was recorded in Paris and produced by Steve Lillywhite, for those of you keeping score at home. Although this album won't receive a lot of airplay, this is one of the Heads' best efforts. Who cares if the band is supposedly fighting and on the continual verge of disbanding. If they keep releasing music like this — they'll stay important, and "influential."

With the success of The Sound of Music, the dBs have re-released Like This from 1984. The dBs are another band who would say something like, "We don't think we sound like anybody, but I suppose if you had to put us in a bubble, we kind of sound like REM." That's sort of a backwards compliment to REM. We don't sound like REM because we can't, but, boy, if we could... The dBs write nice guitar pop songs and would be an honorable addition to any record collection — so don't sit there all closed minded, get out there and buy these records. — BRAD THEIL

Joe Satriani is finally gaining the recognition he deserves as a result of his latest album, "Surfing With the Alien."

The follow-up release to his first album, "Not of This Earth," is another instrumental album, yet it has a much heavier sound. One unique thing about Satriani's music is it avoids distinct categorization. Containing elements of rock, fusion and heavy metal, the music probably comes closest to instrumental rock; however, calling it just instrumental rock does no justice to the originality of this music.

Six out of the 10 songs on the album deliver a hard-rock guitar sound that leaves you motivated and begging for more. The opening tracks, "Surfing With the Alien," "Ice 9," "Crushing Day," "Circles," "Lords of Karma" and "Satch Boogie" (which is receiving considerable airplay on Z-92) are driving songs literally packed with great guitar work.

The excellent guitar is not limited to the rockers, however. "Midnight" has a somewhat classical feel while "Always With Me, Always With You" is a mellow love song and "Echo" and "Hill of the Skull" are just nice rockers without a hard edge.

While Satriani is an extremely innovative guitarist, he also plays bass, keyboards and some of the percussion and drum programming on this album. He is coming into prominence fast. Expect to hear a lot more of him in the future.

For rock fans or guitar enthusiasts, this album is essential. — CRAIG ROTERMUND

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AFGHANISTAN

THE PEOPLE, THE WAR AND THE UNO CONNECTION

Islam to play vital role in Afghan government

By TIM TRUDELL
Senior Reporter

Twenty-one Afghan students at UNO, representing rebel parties battling the Soviets, will play an important part in rebuilding their country after the Soviet Union and its allies withdraw their troops, possibly as soon as this May.

The first issue will be the establishment of a new government. The Soviets and Afghanistan's government leaders want a coalition government including the Communists.

However, most Afghan rebels want an Islamic republic — a government based on the principles of the Islamic religion. Islam is the belief among Muslims that Allah is the only God and that Muhammad is his prophet.

An Afghan Islamic republic will not be similar to Iran's, said Sardar Mohammad Nasery, a member of the seven-party resistance alliance.

"We do not have the radical sect that controls Iran," Nasery said.

The new government will hold free elections for the National Assembly, Nasery said. The new government will not be similar to the pre-war government, which rewarded friends of the monarch with assembly positions, he said.

There is concern whether a coalition government can be successful because of the parties' differences. Problems between the different factions are believed to have aided the 1978 Soviet-backed coup.

Alliance members said the war has united them.

"We feel we can work with the other parties' members," Nasery said. "There are no major differences between the parties on major issues."

However, there will not be a place in the post-war government for Communists, said Rahimullah Rahim, a member of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan.

"They have killed too many people," Rahim said.

The country's current leader, Najibullah, will not have a role in the post-war administration.

"We will kill him" if he stays when the Soviets leave, Nasery said.

"We feel we are right if we catch him and kill him," said Mohammad Asef Karimi, a member of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan. "If you kill a member of my family — my father or brother — then I am right to kill you."

Once the new government is in place, it will be forced to address many serious problems.

The war has devastated the country, said Tom Gouttierre, director of International Studies and Programs. Roads and buildings have been destroyed, so there is a tremendous need for public works reconstruction, Gouttierre said.

There are three main areas of concern to reconstructionists, said Nasir Ahmad, a member of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan.

"We must address three points — agriculture, engineering and education," Ahmad said. "Without agriculture, we will not have food to eat. Without food we cannot live."

The Soviets have destroyed more than 90 percent of the country's farmland in their efforts to control the Afghan people, said Wazir Gul Azam, a member of the Islamic Alliance of Afghanistan.

"It's like draining the pond to get the fish," Ahmad said.

Engineering is necessary to rebuild buildings and houses so the 5 million refugees, many of them in Pakistan, can return to their homeland, Ahmad said. It is also needed if they are to industrialize the country, he added.



"If you kill a member of my family — my father or brother — then I am right to kill you."

The education system has taken a severe beating the last 10 years, Gouttierre said. The system was ignored by the Soviet and Afghan governments for a long time, he said.

The Soviet Union has attempted to "Sovietize" the Afghan education system (so it centers around the Soviet Union), Gouttierre said.

Another major concern is the health system, said Ghulam Hazrat Azam, a member of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

"We will start to establish the hospitals and immunizations," Azam said. "We will try to provide nutrition for pregnant women and healthy people."

Infections and diseases are common among Afghans because of the lack of immunizations, Ahmad said.

Another health problem facing reconstructionists is care for the handicapped, said Ghulam Rabani Popal, a doctor and member of the Afghan National Liberation Front. There are about 30,000 handicapped people in Afghanistan, Rabani said. "Many do not have arms or legs or are

paralyzed from the fighting," he said. "We would like to pay special attention to them because many need help."

The rebels agree that it may take 10 years to restore what the war has taken. Reconstruction will cost billions of dollars, something the nation doesn't have.

"It's not a wealthy nation," Gouttierre said. "It had a \$250 a year per capita income before the war." The per capita income for Americans in 1978 was \$7,854.

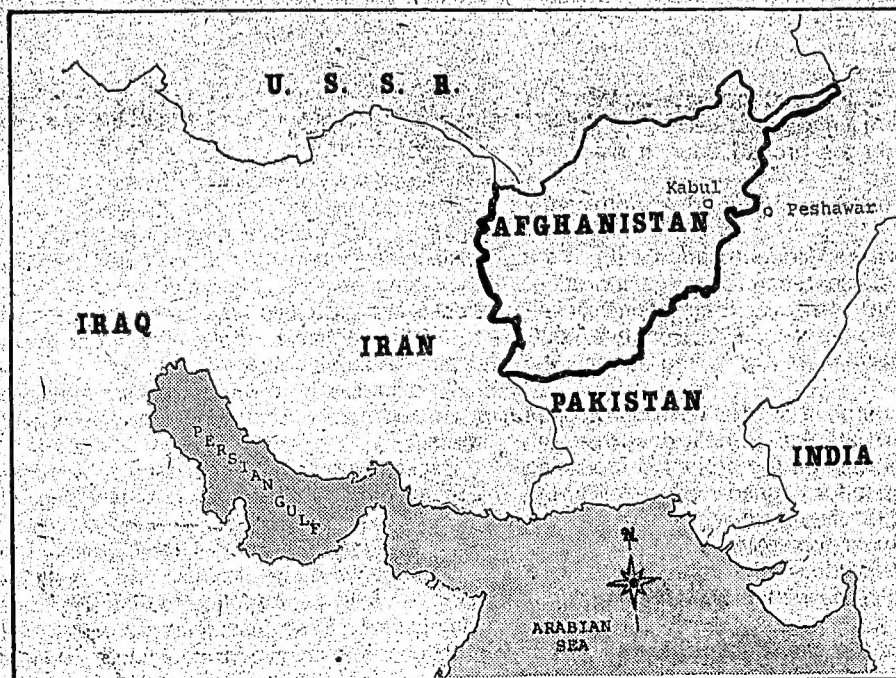
The post-war government will be forced to look beyond its border for economic aid.

American aid will be accepted, Nasery said, but the rebels will look for help from other Muslim nations first.

"We will ask Muslim countries first for economic assistance," he said. "Then we will ask other friendly countries. I think we have a lot of friends."

The reconstructionists will not accept Soviet overtures of aid.

"We know better," Nasery said. "We could not accept offers of assistance from the Soviet Union because we hate them."



Program found home at UNO

By TIM McMAHAN
Editor

When the search was on to find a campus to serve as the institutional base for the Afghanistan Studies Association in 1972, there weren't any takers.

"A number of universities throughout the United States were approached," said Tom Gouttierre, director of International Studies and Programs. "They all declined for whatever reason."

The campuses under consideration included Indiana University, Harvard,

Princeton and Columbia.

Then a UNO faculty member heard of the plan.

"A fellow here at the university approached then Chancellor Ronald Roskens and said, 'You know, you said you want to internationalize education on this campus. I've got an idea for you. Let's go and do a program in Afghanistan,'" Gouttierre said.

The fellow was Christian L. Jung, a young member of the geography/geology department at UNO who had served as a project director at Kabul University in Afghanistan.

Roskens had just come to UNO and saw that the university was lacking in the dimension of international education. He bought the idea. It was the beginning of



Gouttierre

See Program on 8

NU Regent Kermit Hansen finds hope in war-torn Afghans

By DAN SWIA TEK
Feature Editor

"Overall, there is the atmosphere of combat, resistance, preparations for raids. There are more weapons per person in Peshawar than any area I've seen short of a full blown war zone. And yet, it is not a hostile or threatening atmosphere."

NU Regent Kermit Hansen, speech to Board of Regents

NU Regent Kermit Hansen visited Afghanistan refugee camps in Pakistan for three weeks in January. What he found was a dedicated, tenacious people, he said.

It's this dedication and tenacity demonstrated by the Afghan people that Hansen thinks may have backfired on the Soviets in their war with the Afghans. They have underestimated the Afghans' willingness, and more importantly, their talent for fighting.

"When you have someone who knows their own territory, their own block, their own village vs. someone who comes in on a truck, there is no comparison of what that intimate information means," he said.

Hansen's visit was a matter of personal interest and selection by the Board of Regents. The regents wished to illustrate the importance in which they view UNO's Afghanistan project, which has its headquarters in Peshawar, Pakistan — situated near the border of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan, Hansen said, is in many places a barren, rocky, treeless landscape. The Mujahideen (Afghan "free-



*Photos courtesy UNO Center for Afghanistan Studies
Art by Jack Sanford
Layout by Dan Swiatek*

dom fighters') have used mountain passages and rock crevices to their advantage through guerilla war tactics.

"All guerilla warfare is a matter of strongly attacking over a brief period of time with high intensity and then dispersal. Trying to assemble that kind of military activity takes a lot of effort and a lot more leadership than I think the Soviets gave the Afghans credit for," Hansen said.

The Mujahideen began fighting with simple musket loaders and shotguns. Once successful ambushes of Soviet troops occurred, Afghan rebels captured Soviet firearms and gradually increased their modern weaponry. Now, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and China are donating weapons — the most potent being the United States' Stinger missile, a man-carried, heat-seeking missile which has been effective in taking Soviet helicopters out of the sky.

Perhaps more important than war tactics and weaponry is the Afghan view of the war as a holy war, jihad, which is a very deep part of their perseverance and a rather obscure term for Westerners to understand.

Jihad war coupled with successful Mujahideen battles appear to be giving the Afghans a winning edge over the

financially-drained Soviets, Hansen said.

And the Afghans are confident. One commander told Hansen 80 percent of Afghanistan's land is Afghan controlled. "From sundown to sunrise," the commander added, "it is all ours."

During one meeting, two Mujahideen commanders offered to take Hansen into Afghanistan war zones, unharmed.

"They told me, 'Well, what you really ought to do is come and see how we fight. We'll get you in and get you out. There is a Soviet outpost just a half kilometer from the edge of my territory and when you come, I will see that they kick up a firefight so that you'll really know what's going on.'"

Hansen declined.

"It intrigued me. I was attracted; but I thought, what if something happens? Then you're incarcerated. You create a problem for yourself, your government," he said.

Hansen was also struck by the sacrifices made by individuals not directly involved in warfare, namely, the Afghan women and their Pakistan hosts.

"What the women of the Afghan refugees put up with literally tears my heart," he said. "They live with privation — the whole concept of purdah (veiling, isolated economic involvement).

"When you ask them why or what they could do differently, they answer: 'We want to go home again but only to a free country. It is better to be living here as we are living because we are alive and we wouldn't be back in our home country. We can endure. We can persevere, and we will re-establish Afghanistan,'" he said.

The strain on the economy of Pakistan due to the Afghanistan refugees has been considerable. Peshawar's population is 250,000. However, in an arc of about 33 miles between Peshawar and the Pakistan border to the west, three-and-a-half million Afghans combined live in nine refugee camps, Hansen said.

The United Nations and other humanitarian groups provide 50 percent of their day-to-day costs; Pakistan, without complaint, contributes the rest.

"Pakistan has welcomed the Afghans because, after all, they said, 'They are part of our religion and part of the general tribe we belong to.' None the less, it is one whale of an impact," Hansen said.

Thomas Gouttierre, director of UNO's International Studies and Programs department and founder of the Center for Afghanistan Studies at UNO, accompanied Hansen on the trip. Gouttierre was in Peshawar to discuss a "two-stage interim governmental approach" with Afghan freedom fighters and tribal leaders that would take place if or when Soviets withdraw from their homeland.

"I felt like I was in on the ground floor. It was very impressive," Hansen said.

The UNO center in Peshawar is staffed predominantly by Afghans.

"That's where Dr. Wayne Glidden headed it up. It's a very tightly knit, small, efficient, cost-effective operation. As the people in U.S. AID (American International Development) said, it's probably the most dollar-effective, cost-effective operation we have there (the United States)," he said.

Education is the sole purpose of UNO's Afghan project in Peshawar. Because Soviets "have totally destroyed the school system" of Afghanistan, the project is focussing on two areas of instruction for Afghans: education of the Mujahideen fighters and the filtering in of elementary scholastic materials into the war-torn country.

In the case of the Mujahideen, the fighters retreat to Pakistan refugee camps in the winter when fighting is difficult.

"It's during that period that the Afghans have said, 'We really need to teach our people. They've had no education



... in an arc of about 33 miles between Peshawar and the Pakistan refugee camps.

for the past eight years," Hansen said.

The UNO project provides literacy training for these soldiers — "just basic reading, writing and arithmetic for the Mujahideen when they come back from fighting." With the elementary education kits, thus far, 115 tons of textbooks and materials have been transported by Afghans to 1,320 Afghan schools, all without the help of motor vehicles, Hansen said.

"It's incredible to me that those materials move in by mule and human back, anywhere from 30 miles to 120 miles."

Hansen's trip reinforced a deep sense of pride for UNO's Afghan project and fostered a new one for the Afghan mission, he said.

"All my information was second hand, but it was from people involved and it was rather, even though second hand, a thrilling experience to hear the privation of what they have endured for seven and eight years, how they have captured their own equipment. What they do with minimum forces is really incredible."



Perhaps more important than war tactics and weaponry is the Afghan view of the war as a holy war, jihad, which is a very deep part of their perseverance.

Former Moscow student Afghan compares U.S., Soviet schools

By JOHN ROOD
News Editor

Many students come to UNO after attending other universities. But Afghan native Mahwash Wasig may hold the record for the most miles traveled.

Wasig studied engineering at Kabul University prior to the Soviet takeover of Afghanistan. Soviets later "encouraged" her to accept a scholarship and travel to the University of Moscow to study medicine.

After studying in the Soviet Union for two years, Wasig returned to Afghanistan and, in November 1983, escaped to the United States and UNO. Along the way, she spent time in Peshawar, New Delhi, Houston and Seattle.

The most dangerous part of her trip was from Afghanistan to Pakistan. Wasig said she and the family she traveled with had to be careful to avoid Soviet helicopters patrolling the borders between the two countries.

"We stayed in villages during the day and traveled by night," she said. Most of the group's journey took place on horses, mules and on foot.

When she arrived in the United States, Wasig moved to Omaha because of a relative who lived in town, as well as for UN-

O's Center for Afghanistan Studies, where she now works.

"Omaha is a good place to live. You don't have to deal with different cultures like you do in California and the East Coast."

Her experiences at universities in Kabul, Moscow and Omaha offer a unique opportunity to compare educational systems.

American and Afghan testing procedures are very similar, she said, in that in most classes, students read three or four chapters of a book and then are tested over the material. Grading procedures are equally stringent, although Wasig said Kabul instructors were generally a little tougher than UNO professors.

The Soviet education system was her least favorite, although instructors there tended to grade foreign scholarship students easier than others, she said.

At the University of Moscow, students are tested at the end of every class period. At the end of the semester, they take an additional test to show satisfactory progress has been made in the subject. They later take a two-part final — one part written, the other part verbal. Both parts are administered by teachers who have not taught the class.

In the verbal portion of an anatomy class, for example, Wasig said instructors removed small bones from a skeleton and asked her to identify them. The final occurred two years after she took the class, she said.

Wasig said there is another reason she pities Russian students. Russian history classes start from the time of the 1917 Communist revolution, she said. "They don't know their history. They've spent the last 60 years in the dark."

While some have said the United States and the Soviet Union should trust each other more in arms talks and other negotiations, Wasig said "politics will keep the two sides from having complete confidence in each other."

"Ever since World War II, the Russians have been very nervous and want to secure their borders," she said.

"It (trust) is an ideal. The problem is who is going to take the first step. No one trusts each other. I don't trust them (the Soviets)."

The resistance groups "are fighting as a united front now. After that (the end of Soviet intervention) I don't know what will happen. You can't predict anything."

As for the type of government established in Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal, Wasig said she would favor some type of democratic government. "All citizens should be allowed to vote. The government should support free enterprise."

The Islamic religion will probably also play a part in the new government, but Americans shouldn't worry about the creation of a radical republic like the one in Iran, she said. "We were not that way before. Why would we be that way in the future?" she asked.

No matter what the new government does, the task of rebuilding Afghanistan will not be easy. "It wasn't a very developed country before, and now it's empty."

Will Wasig return to her country or stay in the United States? "That's a big question. I've learned you can't predict anything."

For now, Wasig said she will continue to study international business and management at UNO and work for the Afghan center. "It relates to my past and my future."



"We want to go home again but only to a free country."



Rahimullah Rahim



Sardar Mohammad Nasir



M. Omar Stana

Pakistan border to the west, 3.5 million Afghans combined live in nine

Soviets experience little success in fight with Afghan rebels

By TIM TRUDELL
Senior Reporter

The Mujahideen consists of seven political parties united to overthrow the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the Soviet-backed Communist party.

More than a million Afghans (rebels and civilians) have been killed and about 5 million others have been forced to flee their homeland and live in refugee camps in Pakistan, along the Afghanistan border.

Soviets have destroyed villages with bombs and chemical agents, the rebels said.

"They are very cruel," said Sardar Mohammad Nasir, a member of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan. "They kill everything indiscriminately

— children, aged people, women and animals. Even the animals are not safe in Afghanistan."

Nasir Ahmad recalled a trip to his village.

"I went to where my home was and there was nothing left," he said. "The Soviets had destroyed everything."

The Soviets have enjoyed little success against the rebels, almost from the onset of fighting, rebels said.

Rebel forces, estimated at about 100,000, have tremendous success against the Soviets, rebels said. They have captured several weapon convoys and taken weapons ranging from rifles and anti-aircraft guns to tanks, the rebels added.

However, Afghan civilians have paid a heavy price for rebel successes.

"Once, after a successful operation against the Soviets," said Ghulam Rabani Popal, "they stopped a bus with women and children going into the city and poured gasoline all over it and lit it on fire." Rabani is a member of the Afghan National Liberation Front.

Another punishment is being forced to stand on a bomb, Ahmad said. "When the person stands on it, the Russian soldier pulls the switch."

The Soviet Union has recruited assistance from 16 Communist and Third World allies, Nasir said.

"Our people have captured Indian troops, even Palestinians," said Wazir Gul Rasuli, a member of the

See Fight on 8

Program from page 5

all of UNO's international studies and programs.

"Whether it's study abroad, the intensive English language program, foreign student advising, activities relating to all these sister universities in China and Japan; they all really got their beginning here through the Afghanistan dimension, an office where everything can sort of swirl around, an office called International Studies and Programs and the Center for Afghanistan Studies," Gouttierre said.

Jung approached various U.S. government agencies and private foundations including the State Department's Agency for International Development (AID) and the Fulbright Foundation, a foundation that supervises all educational exchanges between countries and the United States. Fulbright foundations exist in almost every country of the world.

But just as the program started to get off the ground and UNO obtained its first internationally-related contract, Jung died of a rare blood disease.

Gouttierre, who had lived in Afghanistan for 10 years and was then working as the director of the Fulbright Foundation in Afghanistan, was approached to head up the Afghanistan Studies Center. He accepted the position and started in August 1974.

"From the beginning we had a lot of activities relating to our sister university in Afghanistan, Kabul University. We had a number of Afghans come here to teach and do research. It was a real active exchange, a lot of fun," Gouttierre said.

UNO students were going to Afghanistan on three-month visits to study Dari, the language of the Afghan people, Gouttierre said, as well as research and study the culture.

Then came the coup in April 1978 and

the Soviet invasion in December 1979. Suddenly the center's role changed. Relations with Kabul University and the Afghans changed overnight.

"We became primarily an information and research resource," Gouttierre said. Students who wanted to study Afghanistan were no longer able to go there. UNO's Afghanistan library became the prime study tool for students. "It's the best library on Afghanistan in the world," Gouttierre said.

Meanwhile, the center was trying to make available to the media what was going on in Afghanistan. "There were people fighting for their lives, the survival of a culture, a society, against all odds," Gouttierre said.

He spent a lot of time in Washington lobbying on behalf of the Afghans, specifically for funding for a cross-border educational program.

"I was going to Pakistan where the Afghan resistance was headquartered," Gouttierre said, "and the people of the resistance told me, 'We really need education in this resistance of ours. We've got to have education.'"

Congress finally got the message, and a humanitarian assistance package was created. The package provided cross-border assistance only for people inside Afghanistan, not for refugees of Pakistan, Gouttierre said.

The aid areas were education, agriculture, rural development, medicine, public health and commodities delivery.

UNO's part of the program started in the fall of 1986. "We had projected a scholarship program to train Afghans for the future of their country, for the reconstruction of their country," Gouttierre said.

The need for the program was simple,



Wayne Glidden, a deceased UNO instructor, was honored for his work in the program with the dedication of a school in his honor in Pakistan.

Gouttierre said. The country was being devastated massively by the war and had been depleted of its intellectual and trained manpower resources.

"There would need to be a development of a new cadre of trained personnel, and finally there was a generation of almost 10 years duration that received no higher education or specialized training whatsoever except those who were shanghaied and taken to the Soviet Union," Gouttierre said.

A specific strategy of selection and the process for having a group of Afghans come to UNO began in the spring of 1987.

The first group of 21 Afghans arrived in March of this year.

"They are committed for the future of their country and the development of their country, to their resistance and gaining their freedom," Gouttierre said.

With their new knowledge, the Afghans will help pave the way for the re-

building of their country.

Gouttierre said he doesn't see the program changing after the anticipated Soviet pull out of Afghanistan.

"If the Soviets were to leave (Afghanistan) tomorrow and the next group came in next week, we're still going to construct the same kind of basic program for them.

"What we hope is when these people are finished, they will not only be able to go back and be better engineers and doctors, but that they will be able to handle the very important needs of Afghanistan which will be resettlement, reconstruction and development," Gouttierre said.

"They are a very adaptable people. There's not that many differences between Afghans and Americans in what we see as our basic human needs. The major differences are matters of degree. Their expectations are tempered upon their past, their present limitations and their future hopes."

Fight from Page 7

resistance. "The Mujahideen shot down a plane and captured the pilot, and he was Indian."

Rabani added that his unit had captured Cuban and Bulgarian troops.

The rebels have made several key moves to control the outcome of the fighting.

One move was the virtual elimination of Soviet airpower with the use of American-provided Stinger surface-to-air weapons. The Mi-24 Hind helicopter

gunships were once considered invincible, but now have been rendered nearly useless because of the Stinger's effectiveness, according to a recent "Time" magazine article.

U.S. aid is reportedly about \$600 million, the article said.

Despite financial support from several countries, including the United States and China, the rebels said they want to remain as independent as possible during

the fighting.

"We do not want American weapons," Nasery said. "We use Russian weapons we have captured. That way we already have the ammunition we need when we beat them in other battles."

Soviet atrocities have kept them from gaining the support of the Afghan people, the rebels said. The people do not want to become "Sovietized," so they support the alliance, they said.

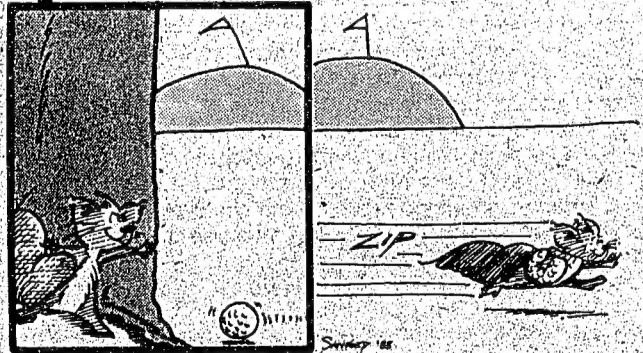
Recruits are forced at gunpoint to join the Afghan army, Nasery said. "The Russians go into villages and force young boys and even old men to join the army," Nasery said. "They come into the house and arrest the boys, 14- or 15-years-old."

They are shot if they refuse to join, Ahmad added. Once "drafted," recruits are transported by helicopter to another area of the country, Nasery said. "This is so they cannot desert, because they do not know where to go," he said.

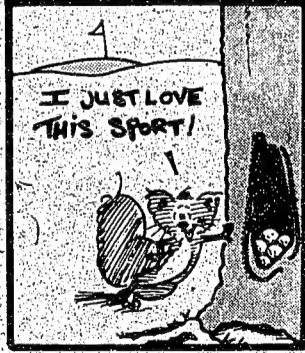
"They are also put on the front between the rebels and Russians," Nasery said. "This is so they cannot run from the fighting."

Rebels move about freely in 90 percent of the country, Nasery said. The Soviets control only 10 percent of the nation, mainly the major cities, he added.

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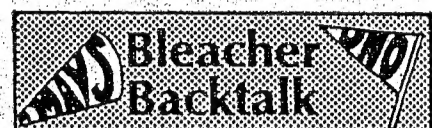
What is rational about not letting a girl participate in high school wrestling, Mr. Lindwall?

Your poor attempt at humor when you said you like to wrestle with girls "but never in the presence of a referee" was condescending and in poor taste.

It's ridiculous to claim the girl should not be able to wrestle because of "decorum." That's what that referee you would object to wrestling in view of is there for.

Cindy Waltstedt,
UNO student

One of the first rules of debate is to know what the hell you are talking about. Did Eric Lindwall know the debate over a girl's rights



to wrestle was of this century? You wouldn't know it to read the column. "Victorian" is not the phrase I'd use. And the Gateway wouldn't print my choice.

Theresa Delgado,
UNO student

Everybody has written off the Kansas squad led by Danny Manning, the best player in the tournament. Duke is in for a surprise. KU is peaking.

Al Kurz,
UNO student

To Phil Packer: Haven't you ever seen a prediction in the sports page before? This is when you pick the favorites and the World Series winners.

One advantage of picking them now is nobody will know the difference because they won't remember who you chose six months from now. Unless of course the guy is right. Then he'll tell you.

Lighten up Phil.

Larry Kirschbaum,
UNO student

Homan chooses Maryland option

By TERRY O'CONNOR
Sports Editor

It is official.

Susie Homan, the assistant UNO volleyball coach, has decided to follow Janice Kruger to Division I Maryland, ending a month-and-a-half of speculation she would become the next coach of the Lady Mavs.

Homan, who visited the Terrapins' campus in College Park, Md., over spring break, said both opportunities offered her attractive career advancement. But the need for a change, coupled with Maryland's untapped potential, swayed the Creighton, Neb., native.

"It's an exciting time for that program," Homan said. "Lou Perkins, the athletic director, has made a financial commitment towards improving the program."

Financially, Homan said, the two offers were similar.

"I'm not going to make a lot more," Homan said. "I did it more as a career choice. Making more money kind of depends on how well we do with volleyball camps. They haven't done anything with those either. It's similar to what they've done with the program."

Homan said it was a difficult choice between

becoming a head coach at UNO or a Division I assistant.

"I think that right now this is the best opportunity for me," Homan said. "Not all people would agree."

One Lady Mav who doesn't agree is All-North Central Conference sophomore-to-be Colleen Hurley.

Hurley said she definitely will transfer from UNO. Debbie Eickholt, a 5-foot-9 freshman from Millard North, also said she is considering a move.

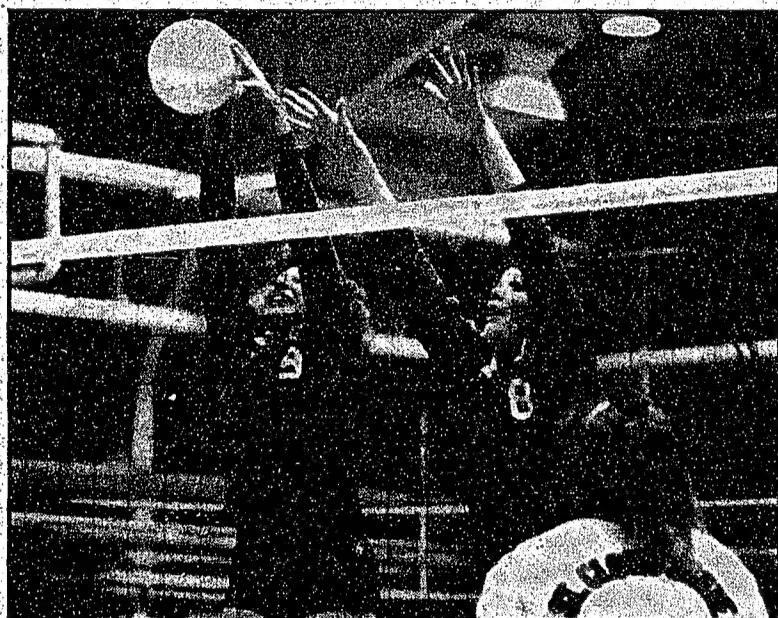
"One of the reasons I came here was the coaching," Eickholt said. "In fact, the main reason I came here was the coaching."

Regina Rule, a senior coming off a redshirt season, said the remaining players have a difficult adjustment ahead.

"It's just so hard," Rule said. "We knew Janice and Susie so well. We knew when that vein popped out on Janice's neck we were going to have to run. But they have to do what's best for them."



Susie Homan



— Gateway file photo

Colleen Hurley, No. 8, said she will transfer in the wake of the volleyball coaching changes at UNO.

All-American Ruth Evans said she was surprised by Homan's departure.

"I thought maybe she would stay at least another year," Evans said. "She just went out there and said she liked it."

"But now she doesn't have to teach or fund-raise. She can just coach. That had to have something to do with it."

Both Rule and Evans said Connie Claussen, the UNO women's athletic director, offered the players a chance to meet with prospective coaches and compare volleyball philosophies before the replacement is hired.

"It's not like we'll be hiring the coach," Rule said with a laugh. "But to include us in the discussions, not too many schools would do that."

Rule and Eickholt expressed hope UNO volleyball fans would continue to support the eight remaining players in the program.

"We need support now more than ever," Eickholt said.

Homan said she is confident Claussen would find a suitable successor. But the athletes themselves will determine whether the transition will be a successful one, Homan said.

"When you leave a position you hope it doesn't go downhill," Homan said. "I'm confident the athletes will continue to work hard."

UNO, which finished No. 3 in Division II the last three years, is coming off a 35-6 record. But that level of success is not automatic, Homan said.

"It can continue to be strong," Homan said. "But it will take everyone working hard at it. All the recognition and success has not just fallen into place. It's taken a lot of hard work and sweat."



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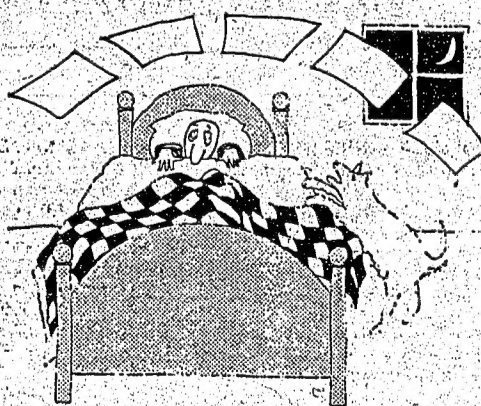
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Mavs' 1st scrimmage set

The Maverick football team will conduct its first full-contact scrimmage of the spring tomorrow at 10 a.m.

UNO Coach Sandy Buda, who welcomed 29 letterman to the start of spring practice Monday, said the scrimmage won't emulate actual game conditions.

"It will be a controlled scrimmage," Buda said. "We won't have referees there."

The Mavs, with the return of five starters in the offensive line and their leading rusher, LaRon Henderson, will emphasize the running game over the pass this season, Buda said.

"We try to do what the players do best," Buda said. "Running is what our personnel does best."

Buda, looking fit after his recent heart bypass surgery, said the Mavs have two goals in spring ball.

"We try to find replacements for graduating seniors and experiment a little with the X's and

O's," he said.

"We'll look at different types of blocking. Sometimes something that looks good on the blackboard doesn't work on the field."

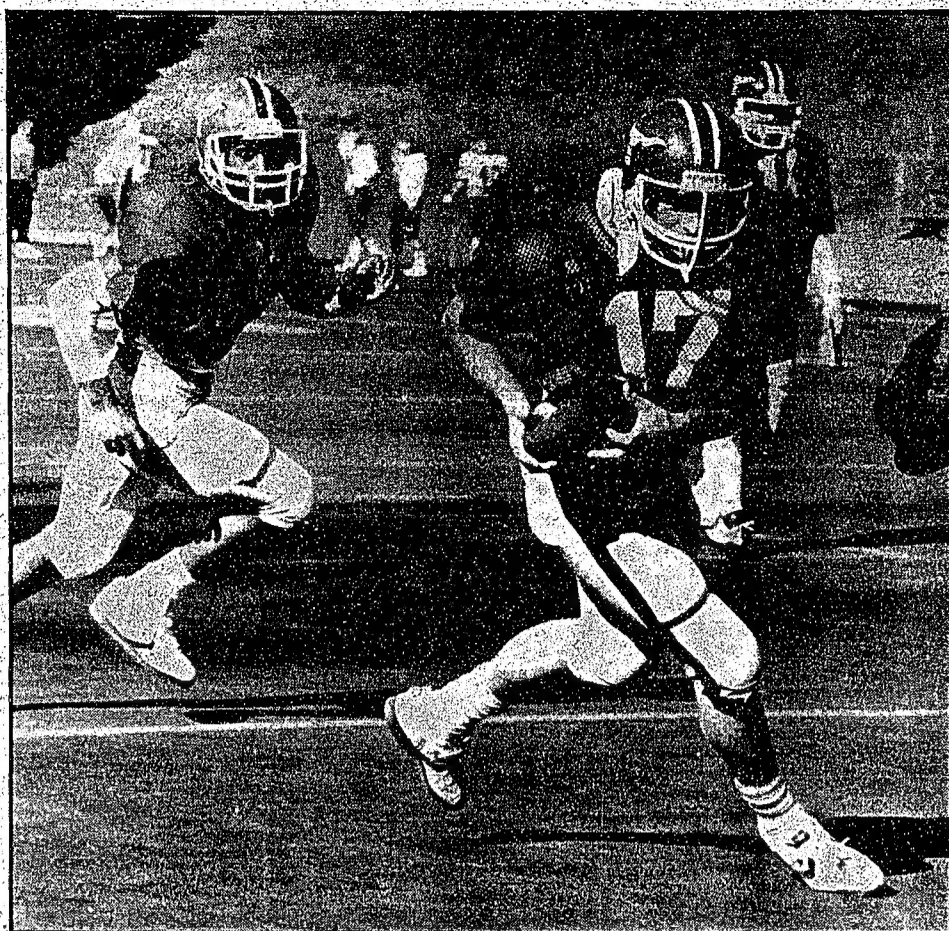
Buda said he is looking forward to replacing UNO athletic director, Bobby Thompson, as the offensive play caller.

"I'd still rather have Bobby out there," Buda said. "We lose valuable experience without him. But I enjoy calling the plays."

Thompson, who retired as offensive coordinator at the request of UNO Chancellor Del Weber, said he'll miss coaching football.

"I don't think there's any question about that," Thompson said. "But we've been talking about this for a couple years, and we decided to go ahead and do it this year."

"But I'll miss being out there Saturday afternoons," Thompson said. "And I'll miss Saturday nights."



— Eric Lindwall

UNO fullback Jeff Podraza, No. 17, and running back LaRon Henderson, No. 32, are two reasons Maverick Coach Sandy Buda said UNO will be a running team this fall.

Big 8 shines in basketball bash

By ERIC LINDWALL
Sports Columnist

It's THAT time of year again.

Oklahoma, Arizona, Duke and Kansas meet this weekend in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Final Four basketball tournament at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo.

Before I reveal my tourney pick, let's take a look at what this extravaganza means to the principals involved.

This is the BIG one in Division I athletics.

Football gets exciting during the postseason, but many lose interest during the three-week bowl season, and we don't always come away with a true champ.

Baseball has the College World Series, played right here in Omaha, but nobody televised the Series until two years ago, so it's just beginning

to catch on around the country.

Basketball, and the Final Four, is the NCAA's crowning glory. It takes eight years to secure a ticket, commands a nationwide television audience of millions, and generates more revenue than any other collegiate sport.

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Sports Look

with excitement.

The semifinals will be played tomorrow afternoon followed by the final game Monday night and bingo! A true champion.

As you might guess we're talking about big bucks for the conferences.

The Big Eight, named by *Sports Illustrated*, as the worst conference in the country, will make an unprecedented haul this year. Five Big

Eight teams qualified for the tourney, three of them made it to the final eight, and two will play tomorrow.

Total haul: \$3 MILLION and counting. The tab could be more than \$3.5 million if both win their semifinal games.

Not a bad check to supplement the increased respect the Big Eight will receive from traditional hoop powerhouses, publications like SI, and potential recruits.

Anyway, without further delay, here's the pick; like 'em or not it's...

OKLAHOMA

The winner of the Duke/KU semifinal almost certainly is destined to be the tourney runner-up. The winner of the Oklahoma/Arizona game, undoubtedly will be a heavy favorite in the finals. The one surprising aspect is that Arizona has been made a two-point favorite in its semifinal matchup against the Sooners.

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UNO pitching woes contribute to 'Tuesday blues'

By TERRY O'CONNOR
Sports Editor

Tuesday has been a blues day for the UNO baseball team this season.

Northwest Missouri was the latest club to take advantage of UNO's Tuesday maladies by pounding out 15-0 and 15-10 wins earlier this week.

The doubleheader defeat dropped UNO to 6-11 for the season. NW Missouri is 17-8.

The Mavericks have been outscored 77-22 while dropping five of six Tuesday games. Team co-captain Clark Anderson tossed a one-hit 2-1 win over Doane March 21 in the first game of a doubleheader for the Mavs' only Tuesday success. UNO dropped the nightcap 13-3.

"That really has nothing to do with it," UNO Coach Bob

Gates said, referring to the Tuesday defeats. "It's not the day you play, it's the pitching you get. What's happened is we've been short three pitchers and it shows."

Jim Schiemann, a 6-foot-2, 185-pounder from Omaha Northwest, and 6-0, 185-pound Chris Niederle, from Omaha Roncalli, have been unable to pitch an inning this season due to sore shoulders. Rich Spicl, a transfer from Creighton, has been bothered by a blister on his foot since pitching in the Nebraska-Lincoln game, UNO's opener.

UNO's remaining pitchers have pieced together a bloated 9.49 ERA. Gates said UNO's .229 team batting average has been its other weak spot.

"We scored two, two, zero and two runs the four games before Northwest Missouri," Gates said. "You won't win doing that."

"We got enough hits to win the second game against NW

Missouri," Gates said. "You've got to be able to win when you score 10 runs."

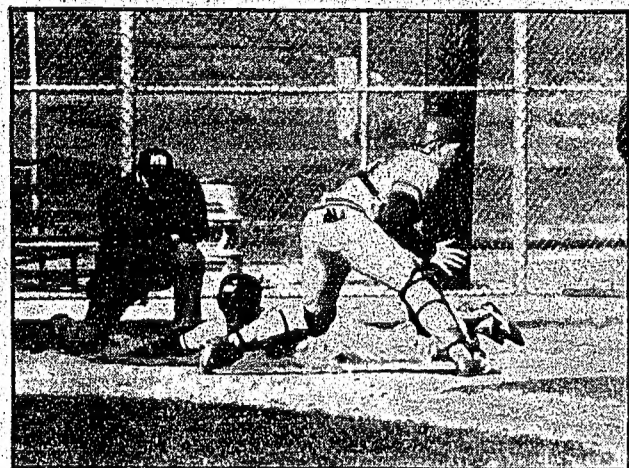
The Mavs, limited to Seth Horn's third-inning single in the opener, bounced back to challenge NW Missouri in the nightcap.

UNO trailed 11-3 but scored the next seven runs of the game, the last three coming on sophomore catcher Brian Flemming's three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth.

"I thought we could have scored a couple more runs in that inning," Gates said. "But I was pleased the way we bounced back. They didn't quit."

"We haven't thrown any games away," Gates said. "If it's close, we've been doing a good job."

UNO plays two games against Wayne State Thursday and will play Creighton in a doubleheader April 4. Both openers are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at College World Series Park.



— Charlotte Niemeyer

A Northwest Missouri runner slides home ahead of the throw to UNO catcher Brian Flemming.

Mavs lose Mitchell to Foundation post

By KEITH FAUR
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Foundation is gaining a new associate director in Tom Mitchell, but the UNO athletic department will be losing a key fund-raiser.

The Nebraska Foundation is a non-profit organization set up to supplement funding for all three Nebraska state college campuses.

Mitchell will officially join the Foundation next week after a year-and-a-half as UNO's athletic fund-raising coordinator.

Mitchell joined the UNO staff as an assistant basketball coach. He became a fund-raiser after the 1986 budget reductions slashed the UNO athletic budget approximately \$650,000.

"The department went through a tremendously stressful time in dealing with financing and budget reductions," Mitchell said.

"Bobby Thompson (UNO's athletic director) set up a situation for someone to step in and coordinate promotions and marketing to deal with the empty seats in the football stadium and at basketball games."

Mitchell said only time will tell if the Nebraska Foundation position will work out for him.

"It's just a great opportunity," he said.

Mitchell graduated from Southeast Missouri State in 1976 with degrees in physical education and business administration. He was head basketball coach and director of admissions at Muskatine College in Iowa before coming to UNO.

"The fund-raising job was an opportunity to do something different and head in a new direction," Mitchell said. "We had to go out in the Omaha community and find a way to replace those dollars."

Mitchell said it took some time to "get the ball rolling." "We made some long- and short-range plans," he said. "It took about six months alone just to establish a rapport and let people know what we were doing. You can't just walk into Peter Kiewit and expect a check for \$50,000."

The idea, Mitchell said, was to show what UNO was all about.

"We let them know that we stressed education first, and we contributed to the community," he said.

Communication is the key to the job, he said.

"It is very challenging but quite rewarding," he said. "To succeed in this job, one must have a tremendous work ethic and have good organizational skills."

UNO is currently seeking Mitchell's replacement. Thompson said the task won't be an easy one. He was pleased with Mitchell's performance.

"I really hate to see him go," Thompson said.

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